

NEWS.

MR. J. G. BAKER retired as Curator of the Kew Herbarium on January 12, and was succeeded by Mr. W. B. Hemsley.

THE REMOVAL of Dr. Carl von Tubeuf from Munich to Berlin has caused the suspension of the *Forstlich-naturwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift*, of which he was editor.

DR. F. W. C. ARESCHOUG, professor of botany in the University of Lund, has retired, and Assistant Professor S. Berggren has been promoted to the place thus vacated.

DR. W. C. STURGIS has leave of absence from the Connecticut Experiment Station, and is working in the laboratory of Professor H. Marshall Ward, at Cambridge, England.

ON DECEMBER 16, 1898, Dr. Karl Müller, of Halle, the well-known bryologist and editor of *Die Natur*, celebrated his eightieth birthday. The cable brings news of his death on February ninth.

IN A BULLETIN of the Purdue University Experiment Station Dr. J. C. Arthur calls attention to the possibility of developing a beautiful bedding plant from *Cerastium arvense oblongifolium*, which, even in its wild state, is very attractive.

IN RECOGNITION of services rendered to the colonial governments as Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, the Queen has conferred upon Mr. W. T. Thiselton Dyer the Knight Commandership of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (K. C. M. G.).

MR. CHARLES A. KEFFER, of the Division of Forestry, United States Department of Agriculture, has been appointed Horticulturist in the Agricultural College of New Mexico at Mesilla Park. He will leave Washington for his new work about the last of February.

FATHER J. H. WIBBE died at his residence in Schenectady, N. Y., January 7, 1899, at the age of 60. He was well known to the older botanists as an enthusiastic collector and student of the local flora; and to those who enjoyed his personal acquaintance as a most genial friend.

THE OHIO STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE held its eighth annual meeting December 29 and 30 at the State University. Botanical papers were read by John H. Schaffner, A. D. Selby, Lumina C. Riddle, H. C. Beardslee, E. L. Fullmer, Edo Claassen, W. A. Kellerman, G. M. Holferty, and E. L. Moseley.

THE PHYSICS GARDEN of the Society of Apothecaries, Chelsea, London, founded by Sir Hans Sloane in 1722, which has of late years been much neglected, is to be rejuvenated and suitably maintained. New offices, lecture rooms, and a physiological laboratory are to be built, a curator and head gardener appointed, and suitable lectureships established.

DR. ROLAND THAXTER, during his visit abroad last spring and summer, obtained specimens of Laboulbeniaceæ at Paris, London, and Oxford, representing material of world wide distribution. These collections will probably double the size of the family. On account of Mr. Thaxter's serious illness, from which he has happily recovered, work upon them has been delayed.

MR. GILBERT H. HICKS, of the Department of Agriculture died suddenly at his home in Washington December 7, 1898. He was First Assistant Botanist and Seed Expert, and was also editor of the *Asa Gray Bulletin*. He was a native of Michigan, and received his government appointment in 1894. Mr. A. J. Pieters, heretofore associated with Mr. Hicks, has succeeded him in charge of the pure seed investigations.

PROFESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL of the Botanical Department of the University of Minnesota has been appointed Director of the Laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden. He will take up his new duties July 1, at which time the new museum and laboratory building of the Garden will be ready for occupancy. The laboratories in question will be devoted entirely to research work. No students will be received until an adequate laboratory equipment has been secured and put in place, a matter which will occupy the director's attention for a few months. This transfer leaves a vacancy in the assistant professorship of botany at the University of Minnesota. It will probably be filled at the April meeting of the Board of Regents.

THE EXTENSIVE collection of Compositæ of the late Dr. F. W. Klatt of Hamburg, the well-known specialist in this order, has been purchased by the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University. The collection is estimated to contain about 11,000 specimens, together with very numerous and skillfully executed drawings of types. The indefatigable character of Dr. Klatt's work is recognized by all who have been interested in tropical Compositæ. Indeed there are scarcely any medium sized or large genera of the order which have not been enriched by his specific characterizations. Especially numerous are his species of *Vernonia*, *Eupatorium*, *Verbesina*, and *Senecio*. Of Dr. Klatt's species (except the Costa Rican plants of Pittier) the representation in America has hitherto been very incomplete. The Klatt Herbarium, however, contains not only the Klatt types but numerous authentic specimens of other rare species, and from a conservative estimate, based upon a partial count, it is believed that the collection includes no less than 60 genera and 1500 species not hitherto represented in the Gray Herbarium or, for the most

part, in American herbaria at all. Before the accession of the Klatt collection, the Compositæ of the Gray Herbarium were estimated at about 35,000 mounted sheets, many of which hold two to five specimens.

THE WASHINGTON BOTANICAL CLUB was organized by a gathering of botanists held at the residence of one of its members November 11, 1898. The limit of membership was fixed at twenty, and it was determined that the meetings, for the present at least, should be of a distinctly social and informal nature, with free opportunity for discussion and the general interchange of ideas. At a subsequent meeting, held December 14, the organization was perfected by the election of Professor Edward L. Greene as President, and Mr. Charles L. Pollard as Secretary. The Club is to hold monthly sessions, devoting itself chiefly to systematic and ecological work, the field of plant physiology and pathology being covered by the already existing Botanical Seminar.

At the December meeting the following resolutions, commemorative of the late Gilbert H. Hicks, were unanimously adopted:

"It is with extreme sorrow and heartfelt regret that we learn of the death of our friend and colleague, Mr. Gilbert H. Hicks. To all of us he was known intimately as an earnest co-worker in the field of science, and a genial member of our social organizations. His energy, earnestness, and conscientiousness in scientific work commanded our approval, and secured recognition for him in all circles as an able investigator. He had already done much to advance knowledge in his chosen line of work, and we feel that the cause of science has lost greatly by his untimely death.

"Much of his work, though of a high scientific character, had been so directed as to yield results of the greatest practical value in the production of food crops, and was intended to lighten in some degree the burden of struggling humanity. As a botanist his keen appreciation of practical problems and his extensive knowledge of plant life well fitted him for this work for the people, and not only science has lost by his death, but all tillers of the soil, those who plow, sow, and reap, have lost a true friend and counselor.

"Yet to us, his daily associates, the loss is greatest. We shall miss his cheery greetings, his companionship, his counsel. It is thus with feelings of deepest sorrow and regret that we have learned that he has been taken from us while yet in the prime and vigor of early manhood. To his sorrowing family we desire to express our heartfelt sympathy and condolence. We realize how inexpressibly great the loss has been to them, and we mourn with them.

"Resolved that a copy of the above resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and to the leading botanical magazines in this country."

CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD, *Secretary*.